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Inside Today

Article

Sir Ninian Falters: A Time for Peace
by Waliur Rahman
Page 4

International

Govt resolution defeated in Pak parliament

Kumaratunga turns down honorary degree from a prestigious Lankan university
Page 5

Business

Progress of Japanese projects discussed

US Congress to approve Uruguay Round next week
Pages 6, 7

Environment

Towards Women's Environmental Awareness; Death Stalks Villages 'Unfit for Human Habitation'; DDT: The Untold Story; Impact of Polluting Industries in Dhaka City
Page 8

Bills to revamp EC, issue ID cards

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Sangsad (JS) yesterday took up for discussion a Bill seeking to give 'wide powers' to the Election Commission (EC) and another Bill proposing 'issuance of identity cards to all voters by the EC was introduced in the House.

Treasury bench MPs, while discussing the bills - complementary to each other - told the House that enactment of the laws would effectively contribute to ensuring the exercise of people's franchise in a free and fair atmosphere.

The first Bill — the Representation of the People (amendment) Bill, 1994 - seeking to strengthen the EC was introduced in the House by Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz during the last budget session of Parliament. LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder yesterday moved the second one — the Electoral Rolls (amendment) Bill 1994 — providing for identity cards for the voters.

According to the provisions of the Bill, the identity card shall be laminated and bear (a) a photograph of the elector, (b) the name and signature or thumb impression of the elector, (c) the serial number of the elector in the electoral rolls, (d) the signature of an officer of the commission authorised on this behalf, (e) the seal of the commission, and such other particulars, if any, as the commission deems fit to specify.

The Bill seeks provisions for punishment with imprisonment for a term upto six months or with a fine upto Taka one , thousand or with both if any person makes any false declaration in connection with the preparation, revision or correction of an electoral roll, or the inclusion or deletion of any entry in or from an electoral roll, a statement or declaration in writing which is false and which he either knows or believes to be false or does not believe to be true.

According to a provision of the Bill, "If any registration officer, assistant registration officer or other person required by or under this ordinance to perform any duty in connection with the preparation, revision or correction of an electoral roll or the inclusion or deletion of any entry in or from that roll, is, without reasonable cause guilty of any act or willful omission in breach of such duty, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a

See Page 12 Col 1

Opposition calls country-wide rail, road barricade today

By Staff Correspondent

sThe opposition parties in Parliament — the Awami League, Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami — have called for a country-wide rail and road barricade today.

Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim, talking to The Daily Star last night said the day-long programme was aimed at halting train movement blocking all roads leading to the capital.

He said the programme, however, did not include any obstruction to traffic movement in the capital itself.

Awami League general secretary Zillur Rahman, in a statement issued last night, stated that the country-wide rail and road blockade action was part of the previously announced Opposition programme demanding the resignation of, what he termed, "corrupt, terroristic, vote da-

See Page 12 Col 1

JCD enough to tackle Opposition: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, in a sharp riposte to the Leader of the Opposition's recent threat to paralyse everything, said yesterday that the students activists of her party were enough to tackle the Opposition.

"Those who believe in democracy and development and love the country and its people, cannot frequently issue threats to paralyse and destroy everything," she told a huge gathering of the ruling BNP's student activists at the Shapla intersection in the capital's Motijheel area yesterday afternoon.

"We never speak in such manner because we believe in democratic practice, freedom of speech and public welfare," said the BNP chairperson.

Reacting to Opposition threats to bring the country to a standstill unless its demand for a caretaker government was conceded, the Prime Minister, pointing her finger at the huge gathering, said; "They are enough to resist them (Opposition) and thwart their destructive designs. Yet I would ask them to exercise restraint.

"The BNP was voted to power by the people and it will not quit because of anybody's threat. The party will continue to remain in power as long as it enjoyed the people's confidence" Begum Zia declared amid clappings and thunderous slogans.

Thousands of students belonging to the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) from across the country joined the rally, organised to demonstrate the JCD's determination to protect democracy and national independence.

Chaired by JCD president Fazlul Huq Milon, it was also addressed by the BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minis-

See Page 12 Col 3

JS boycott case

'MPs can't remain absent without permission of the Speaker'

The writ petition filed by Advocate Anwar Hossain challenging the validity of the continuous boycott of Parliament by the Opposition continued yesterday for the third day before a High Court division bench comprising Justice Kazi Shafiuddin and Justice Kazi A T Monwar Uddin, reports BSS.

Appearing on behalf of the petitioner, Asrarul Hossain, Bar-at-Law, submitted his arguments in favour of the maintainability of the writ by saying that no Member of Parliament (MP) can remain absent from sessions of Parliament without permission of the Speaker.

He cited sections 179 and 180 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament: "To remain absent in the sessions for consecutive 90 days, a member shall require to apply to the Speaker for leave stating date of commencement of leave and reasons for the purpose of

See Page 12 Col 4

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at the Yusufganj High School premises in Rupganj yesterday. — Star photo

Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting organised by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, student wing of her party, at the Shapla Square in the city's Motijheel area yesterday. — Star photo

Death in custody

12 hurt in clash with police

By Staff Correspondent

At least a dozen people were injured in clashes between police and public near the Darus Salam police outpost in Mirpur yesterday.

Police lobbed teargas shells and fired rubber bullets at the demonstrators who were protesting the death of one Sanaullah while in police custody.

Of the injured, one Shahidul Islam was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with a rubber bullet injury.

Witnesses said over a hundred people brought out a procession around 11 am mourning the death of Sanaullah.

The processionists chanted slogans demanding punishment of the police men who

See Page 12 Col 2

Saifur seeks fund from Japan to build Rupsha bridge

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has sought funding support from Japan for the proposed Rupsha bridge in Khulna, reports UNB.

The request was made when the visiting Japanese government delegation, led by chief of the Grant Aid Division of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called on Saifur at his office yesterday afternoon.

The eight-member delegation is now visiting Bangladesh for the annual consultation meeting with the government of Bangladesh.

The finance minister told the delegation that Bangladesh would be ready to provide local currency part for the project if Japan agreed to finance it, according to an official handout.

NEWS BRIEFS

Russian envoy calls on Hasina

Russian Ambassador Dr Eduard S Shevchenko made a courtesy call on Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at her Minto Road residence yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed matters of mutual interest of the two countries. Hasina's political adviser S A M S Kibria and Awami League's international affairs secretary Abul Hasan Chowdhury were present at the meeting, reports UNB.

10 injured in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 28: Ten persons were injured, one of them seriously, in a road accident at Ghatura, near the district town today. Witnesses said the accident occurred when a truck hit a Brahmanbaria-bound tempo this afternoon. One Khaja Ahmed, 30, who received serious injuries was shifted to Dhaka for treatment.

Body found in city

Police recovered the body of an unidentified young man aged about 20 from a roadside ditch near the Gabtali bus stand yesterday morning. The body, with marks of injury, was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, reports UNB.

8 Sarbaharamen arrested

BARISAL, Nov 28: Police arrested eight activists of the outlawed Sarbahara Party from the villages of Mehendiganj thana during a special drive over the last six days. Of them, three were nabbed from Mehendiganj sadar, three from Jangalia and two from Andharmandi villages. They were identified as Moqbul Hossain, Shahid Bepari, Saddam Bepari, Rafiqul Islam Majhi, Moin uddin Majhi, Noorunnabi, Sukkur Chowkidar and Shah-e-Alam, reports UNB.

8 killed in Kashmir blast

JAMMU, Nov 28: A bomb concealed in a passenger bus exploded in Jammu-Kashmir state Monday, killing at least eight Hindu pilgrims and injuring 38 others, police said, reports AP.

Concede to demand or quit power : Hasina

RUPGANJ (Narayanganj), Nov 28: Sheikh Hasina today warned that the people will be compelled to launch an allout 'oust government agitation' if the ruling BNP fails to accept their demand for election under a non-party caretaker government, reports UNB.

"Either concede to the people's demand or quit power," the Opposition leader asked the government while addressing a huge public rally at the Janata High School ground here this afternoon.

Hasina, who is campaigning for constitutional provision for a caretaker government to conduct parliamentary elections, said her current crusade was aimed at protecting the people's voting rights as well as to ensure peaceful transfer of power through ballot, accountability of elected government, and peace and political stability in the country.

Calling the BNP government "corrupt, terrorist and vote dacoit," the Awami League president said the present government was scared of fair voting under a neutral caretaker government as it had lost the confidence of the people because of misrule during last three and a half years.

"The Prime Minister wants to relinquish everything except her chair only to rig the election and perpetuate her power," she alleged.

Amidst cheer and clappings from the audience, Hasina said, "We will not allow any quarter to play ducks and

See Page 12 Col 6

Akhtaruzzaman does it again

By Staff Correspondent

Major (retd) Akhtaruzzaman, a ruling party MP who recently escaped disciplinary action by the party high command for speaking out of turn, yesterday complained that there was no scope for addressing issues relating to the sorrows and misfortunes of the commonman on the floor of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS).

The outspoken treasury bench legislator said this while speaking for nearly half an hour on the problems and prospects of fish cultivation in the country. During his speech, on a notice on the fact that the country now faces a shortfall of 8.7 lakh tonnes of fish, some of his party collegues were seen trying to distract his attention from the issue.

See Page 12 Col 1

Markets for most agri items in Bangladesh inefficient: WB

Donors have suggested that marketing infrastructure and services in the country should be developed on priority basis to turn agriculture into an export-oriented sector and ensure fair price to the farmers, reports UNB.

When agricultural markets are well-developed, they pointed out, goods move from producers to intermediate contractors and final consumers relatively quickly and at low cost, minimising prices to agro-processors and consumers and maximising returns to the producers.

According to a World Bank study, markets for perishable, non-grain crops in the country are underdeveloped and inefficient. As a result, neither producers' nor consumers' interests are served and agricultural diversification is constrained.

Market development may in turn encourage farmers to branch out of a grain self-sufficiency mode of production, and undertake diversified, commercial activity, the study said.

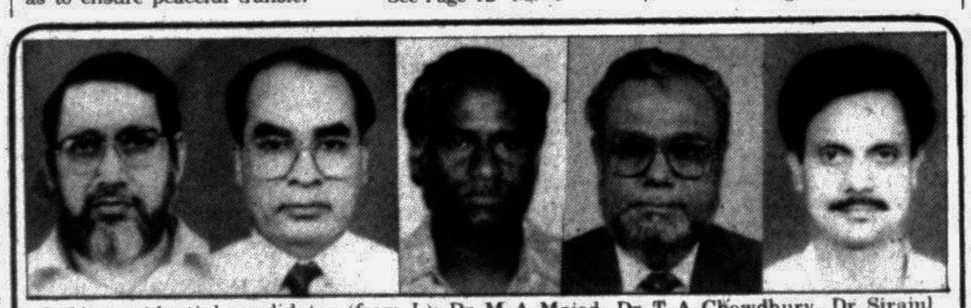
"There are no minimum standards set by the government for operation of markets," the study said referring to absence of adequate space, linkroads, sheds, cemented open market yards, internal roads, lanes, loading-unloading and packaging facilities, and sanitation facilities, which pose serious problems for smooth operation of the markets.

Of the nearly 8,000 markets in the country, the vast majority — 97 per cent — are rural primary and assembly markets. Nearly two-thirds of these are primary outlets for farmers selling their produce, having no storage or permanent infrastructure.

Bulk storage capacity is virtually non-existent in Bangladesh, and even bagged storage capacity for foodgrains, at both ports of Chittagong and Mongla and in the grain-surplus region of the Northwest, is limited.

The solution, suggests the study, is to eliminate the constraints which have prevented investment in storage by the

See Page 12 Col 1



BMA presidential candidates (from L): Dr M A Majed, Dr T A Chowdhury, Dr Sirajul Islam, Dr Nurul Islam and Dr Mujibul Haque.

BMA elections

Introducing the presidential aspirants

By Manirul Islam Khan

Hectic campaigning is on for the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) elections due to be held December 1.

Nearly twelve thousand physicians across the country, who are members of the apex body of medical practitioners, are expected to cast their votes in the biennial elections. Thirty-two posts of the executive committee, headed by a president, will be elected directly.

Five separate panels of candidates are contesting the polls.

The Daily Star Sunday interviewed all five presidential candidates. Following are excerpts from those interviews:

Dr M A Majed, the incumbent president of the BMA claimed: "I am the fittest candidate and I have proved my efficiency through my work for the welfare of my fellow doctors."

"If re-elected, I shall do everything necessary for further development of the health sector," Majed pledged.

"I have been working, and will continue to work, for the development of the public healthcare system."

Prof. T A Chowdhury, the recently retired well-known gynaecologist, said, "The physician community respects me."

"I think if I'm elected president I shall be working together with other political parties and the association will evolve into a stronger professional body."

Prof Chowdhury expressed the view that different nagging problems faced by government and non-government doctors should be removed at the earliest. He, however, added that the problems of the government doctors received priority over the non-government physicians under the outgoing executive committee over the past year or so.

Nowadays, the image of doctors in the country has been eroding because the general public is not well aware of the demands of the doctors," he added.

"The people of the country would be the main beneficiaries if the demands were realised," Dr Chowdhury said.

Dr Chowdhury also told The Daily Star that scientific and research activities of the BMA are very weak.

"If I am elected I shall try to disseminate the modern concept and knowledge to the entire doctors' community. For

See Page 12 Col 8

US won't send troops to Bosnia

WASHINGTON, Nov 28: The Clinton administration said today it isn't prepared to send US troops into combat but would consider a request to help evacuate United Nations forces from Bosnia, reports AP.

Discounting the deployment of 2,000 marines aboard three warships in the Adriatic Sea, White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said, 'I don't think this country is prepared to deploy our forces in a civil war.'

'It's obviously a deteriorating situation and our only hope is that at some point the parties recognise that there's no use in continuing the kind of carnage that is going on there,' Panetta said in a US television interview.

'It's not an optimistic situation. There are not a lot of good choices here,' he said.

Panetta echoed statements by Defense Secretary William Perry, who said Sunday that he saw no prospect of the Muslim-led Bosnian government winning back any of the Serb-controlled territory.

Meanwhile, Serb forces unleashed a relentless artillery barrage on the northwestern Bosnian town of Bihac throughout the morning today, a spokesman for the mainly Muslim Bosnian army told AFP from the besieged town.

Speaking by telephone from Bihac, Damir Mici said: 'Serb forces have been shelling the town constantly and the situation is very difficult for us.'

He said Serbs had used anti-aircraft weapons to target Bihac hospital, and said the 'front line was 500 meters' from the hospital.

Fire in sectt building

By Staff Correspondent

A fire broke out in a room on the 12th floor of the 20-storey building at the Bangladesh Secretariat in the city yesterday evening.

A Fire Service spokesman said, furniture in the room of Zinnat Ali, PS to the Environment and Forests minister, were gutted in the blaze

See Page 12 Col 7

Hartal observed in Rajbari

RAJBARI, Nov 28: A dawn-to-dusk hartal called by the Left Democratic Front (LDF) was observed today here peacefully, reports UNB.

The LDF enforced the strike protesting the killing of Chhatra Maitree leader Gani Amin Panna, a second year student of Rajbari Government College. He was killed during a

See Page 12 Col 5

প্রকাশিত সংবাদ প্রসঙ্গে

'দি ডেইলী ষ্টার', তাং শনিবার, ২৬শে নভেম্বর ১৯৯৪ – এ প্রকাশিত সংবাদ (প্যাথলজিক্যাল পরীক্ষায় ত্রুটি) সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, বর্ণিত ব্যক্তির রক্ত আমাদের ল্যাবরেটরীতে পরীক্ষায় এইচ, আই, ভি ১/ এইচ, আই, ভি ২ এন্টিবডি সনাক্ত করা হয় এবং অনতিবিলম্বে সরাসরি জাতীয় এইডস্ কমিটির সদস্যবৃন্দকে অবহিত করা হয় এবং রক্তের নমুনা রিপোর্টসহ পাঠানো হয় যাহাতে কমিটি উপযুক্ত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণে সমর্থ হন। এখানে উল্লেখ্য যে আমরা আমাদের রিপোর্টে কখনও উক্ত ব্যক্তিকে এইডসের রোগী বলিয়া আখ্যায়িত করি নাই এবং উক্ত রিপোর্টে পরীক্ষা পদ্ধতির বর্ণনাসহ তাহার বৈজ্ঞানিক ব্যাখ্যা প্রদান করা হইয়াছে। যে কোন সময় উল্লেখিত পদ্ধতিতে আমরা উক্ত টেষ্ট পুনরায় করিয়া দেখাইতে প্রস্তুত আছি। প্রকাশ থাকে যে আমাদের ব্যবহৃত পদ্ধতি বিশ্ব স্বাস্থ্য সংস্থার সহিত জড়িত কেন্দ্রসহ বিভিন্ন ল্যাবরেটরীতে ব্যবহৃত এবং স্বীকৃত। বাংলাদেশে এই পদ্ধতির প্রবর্তনের প্রাক্কালে যে সিম্পোজিয়াম হয় তাহাতে বিশিষ্ট বিশেষজ্ঞগণ উপস্থিত ছিলেন যাহা ১৯–৮–৯৪ তারিখের বিভিন্ন দৈনিক পত্রিকায় বিস্তারিতভাবে প্রকাশিত হয়। জাতীয় এইডস্ কমিটির বরাত দিয়া সংশ্লিষ্ট ল্যাবরেটরীর ডাক্তারদের দায়িত্বহীন আখ্যায়িত করিয়া যে খবর ছাপা হইয়াছে তাহা অত্যন্ত দুঃখজনক। এখানে উল্লেখ করা যাইতেছে যে সংশ্লিষ্ট ল্যাবরেটরী বার বার টেষ্ট করিয়া এইচ, আই, ভি, এন্টিবডি পজিটিভ পাওয়ার পরেও তাহার রিপোর্ট সরাসরি রোগীর হাতে না দেওয়া এবং এইডস্ কমিটির সাথে যোগাযোগ করার দায়িত্ব পালন করে।

পপুলার ডায়াগনস্টিক সেন্টার লিঃ
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